

The Fifth First Annual U.S.
American Complete Popular
Modern Outdoor Landscape
AMATEUR Practical **Black & White**
Photography Magazine

AND THE NEW
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
Digital Techniques
ANNUAL PUBLICATION

AND

THE LIPKA JOURNAL
SPECIAL EDITION
E-ZINE
APRIL FOCUS DAY 2025

Our Experts on the Computer:
- Artificial Intelligence vs. Artist Showdown!
- AI versus the Masters of Photography
- YOU be the Judge!

Get ready for Exa-Pixel Sensors:
- Our Editors predict the future!

Recycling Unused Pixels:
- Our Tech experts help YOU save the planet.



The 25 best Non-ironic Hipster film camera reviewed and rated!!

This publication contains a minimum of 32.4836% recycled pixels

Our Experts on the Computer: - Artificial Intelligence vs. Artist Showdown! You be the Judge!

I read many articles on the advantages of Artificial Intelligence and how it's going to make our life so much easier. There is no doubt that our good friends at Adobe have made incredible strides in making AI assisted selection, de-noising, and enhancements that are mind blowing in their excellence. These tools help us create our personal vision. I use these tools with unabashed enthusiasm.

But what happens when we ask Photoshop to create an image from scratch? Type some words in the little dialog box and let Adobe do the rest. George Eastman's said "Push the button and we do the rest." Adobe says, "Type in the dialog box and we do the rest." My how times have changed.

For the April First issue, I thought I would challenge Adobe AI to generate some classic images to see if they could match up with the Masters of the Genre. All in good fun, of course, and with tongue planted firmly in cheek, we begin.

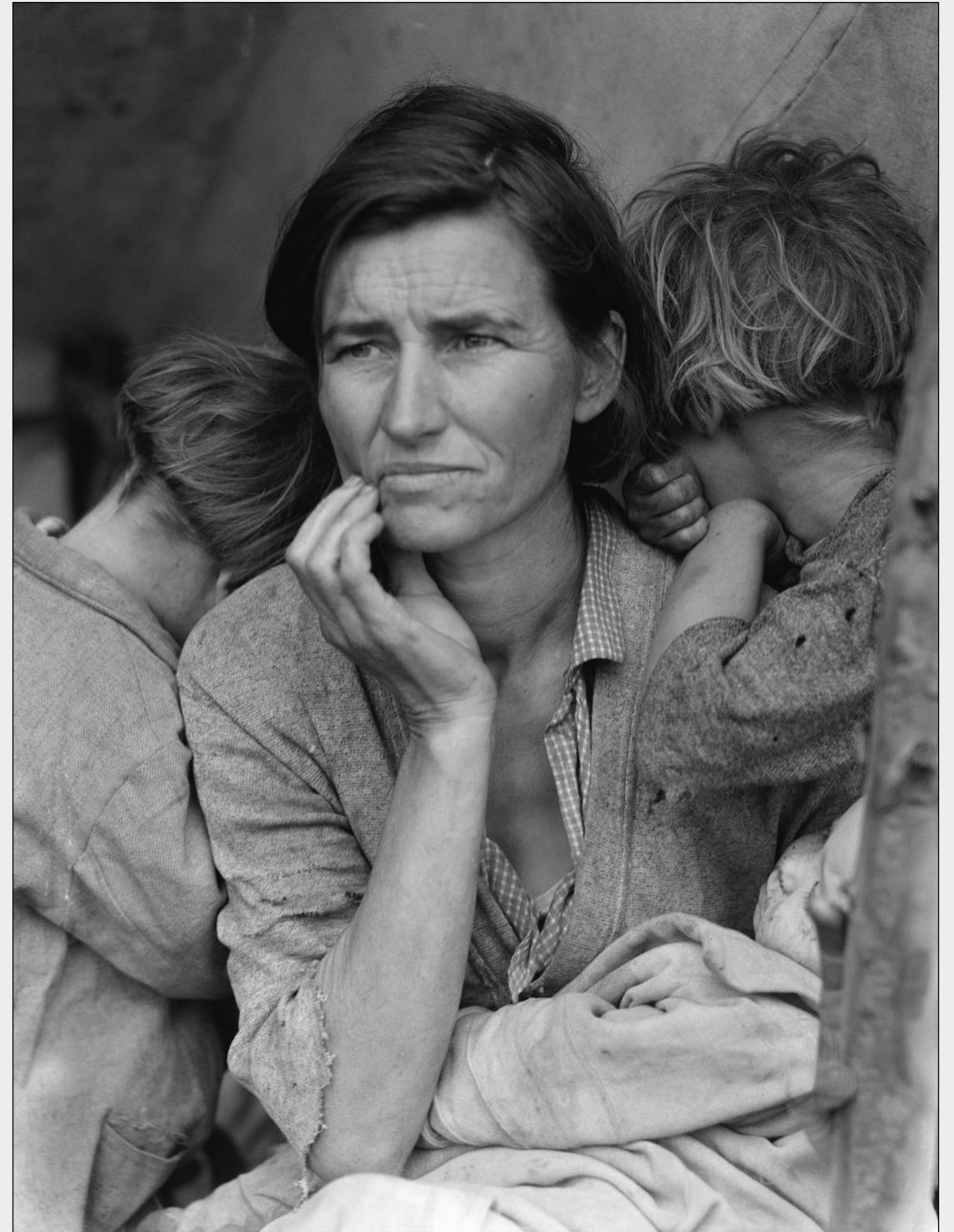
With prompts such as "Winter Storm in Yosemite" and "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico" I guess AI does a pretty good job. Well, except maybe for that oversaturated magenta hue in New Mexico and a comically gigantic moon.

I had to explore the entire world of photography to get a more certain answer. The original highly recognizable photographs from the history of photography are on the right side of the screen and the Photoshop generated images are on the left. So you will know where I started, I have recorded the text used to generate the image.





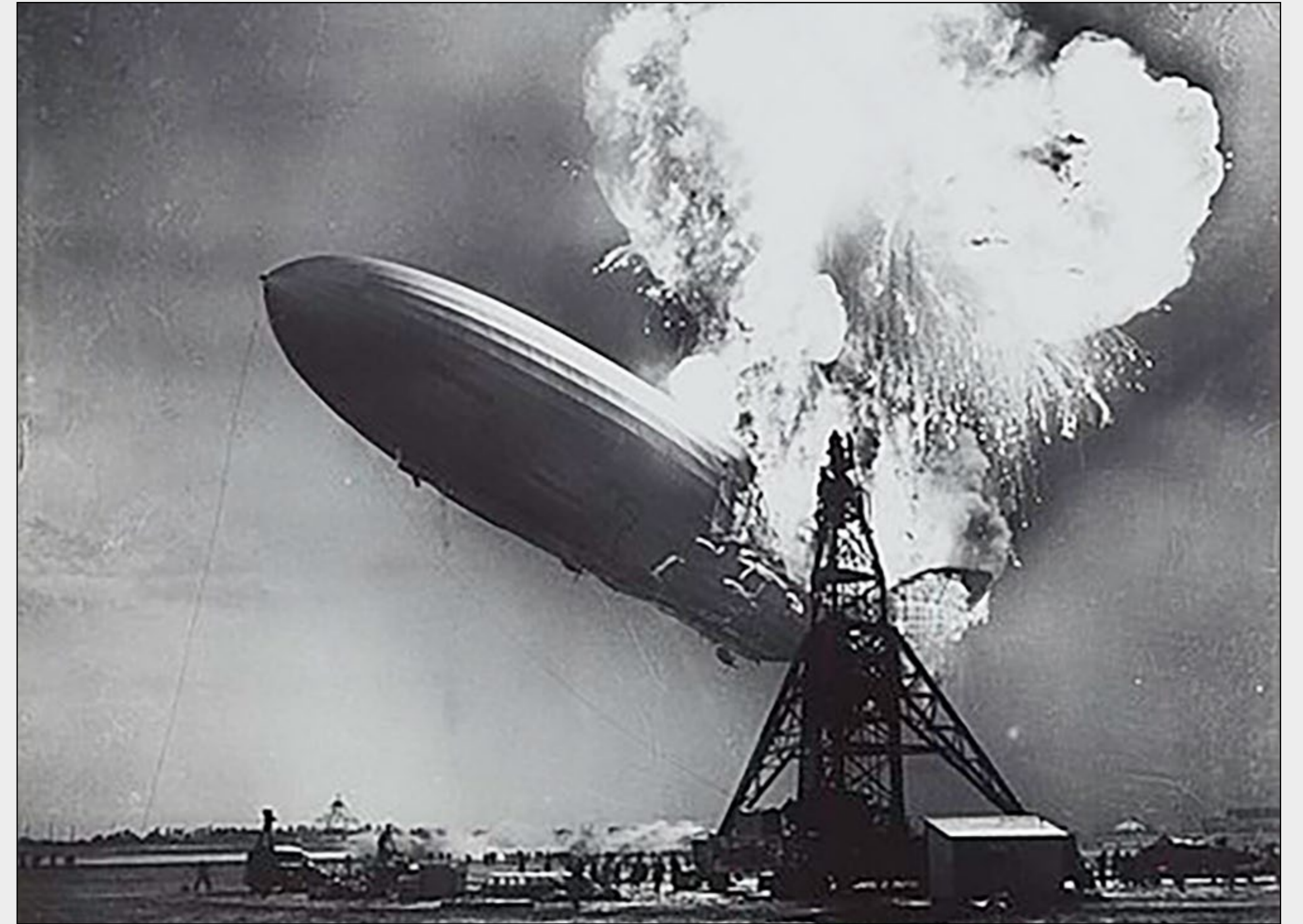
Migrant Mother with three children



Migrant Mother
by Dorthea Lange



Dirigible Crashing in Flames

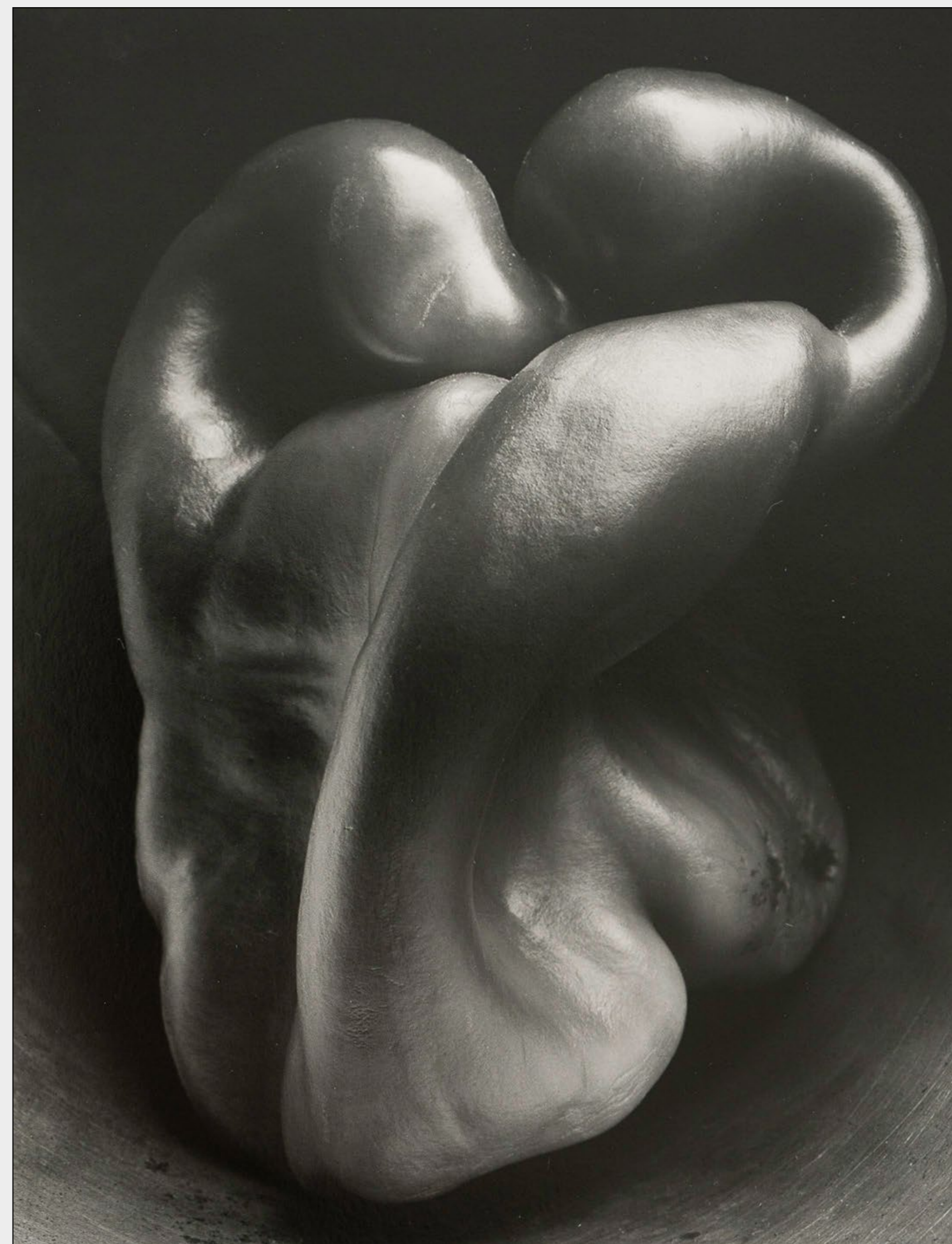


Crash of the Hindenberg

by Sam Shere



Green pepper in a tin funnel



Pepper Number 30

by Edward Weston



Child with Toy Hand Grenade in Central Park



Child with Toy Hand Grenade in Central Park

by Diane Arbus



Black and white photo of Cherokee parts store
garage atlanta-georgia-1936



Cherokee Parts Store Garage Work
by Walker Evans



black and white photo of eleven workers
eating lunch on a beam high above New York City



Lunch atop a Skyscraper
by Charles Ebbets



Square photograph of beatles crossing abbey road

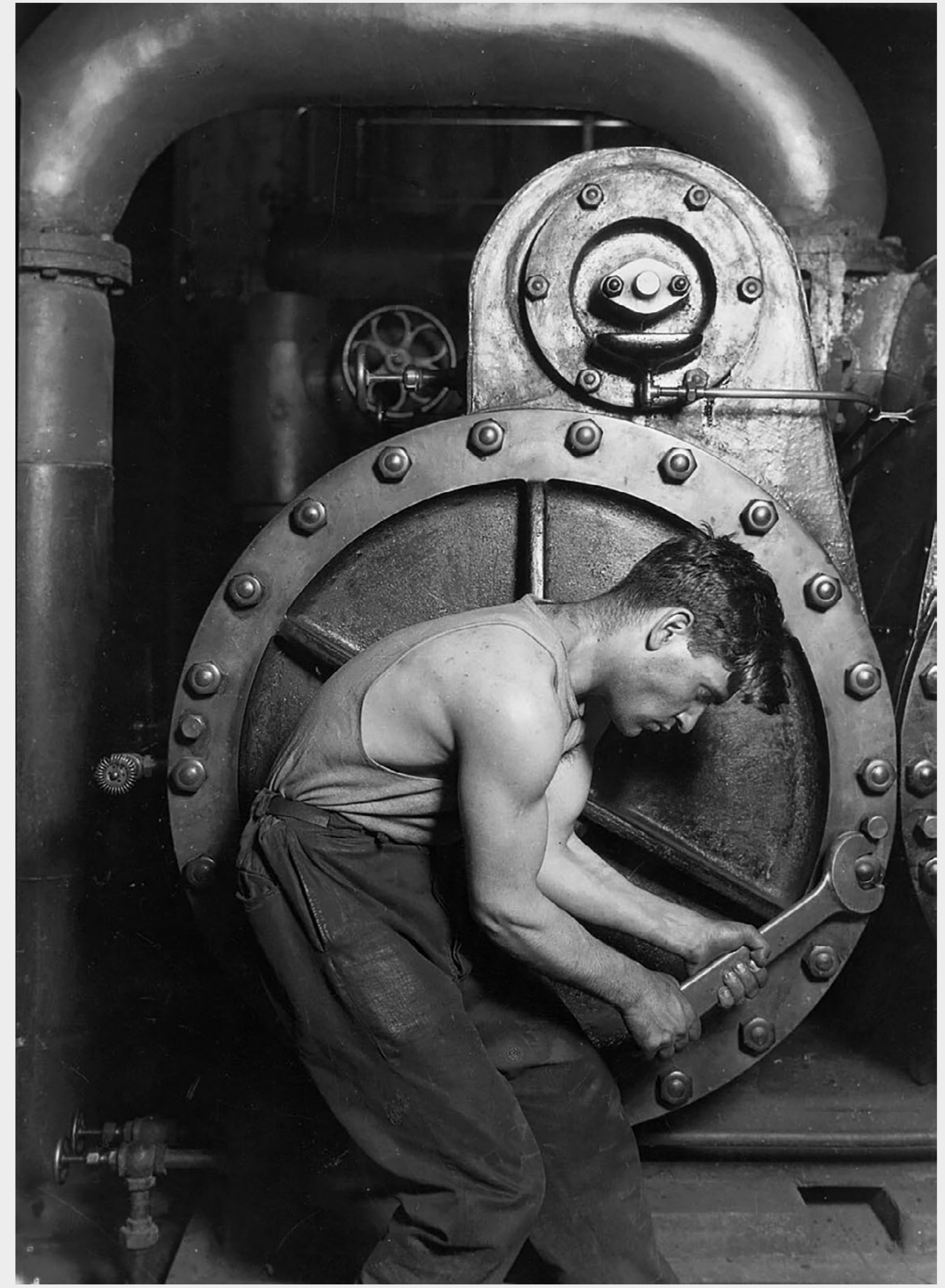


Abbey Road Cover Art

by Iain Macmillan



black and white photograph of a muscular man
with a large wrench repairing a steam pump



Mechanic and Steam Pump

by Lewis Hine

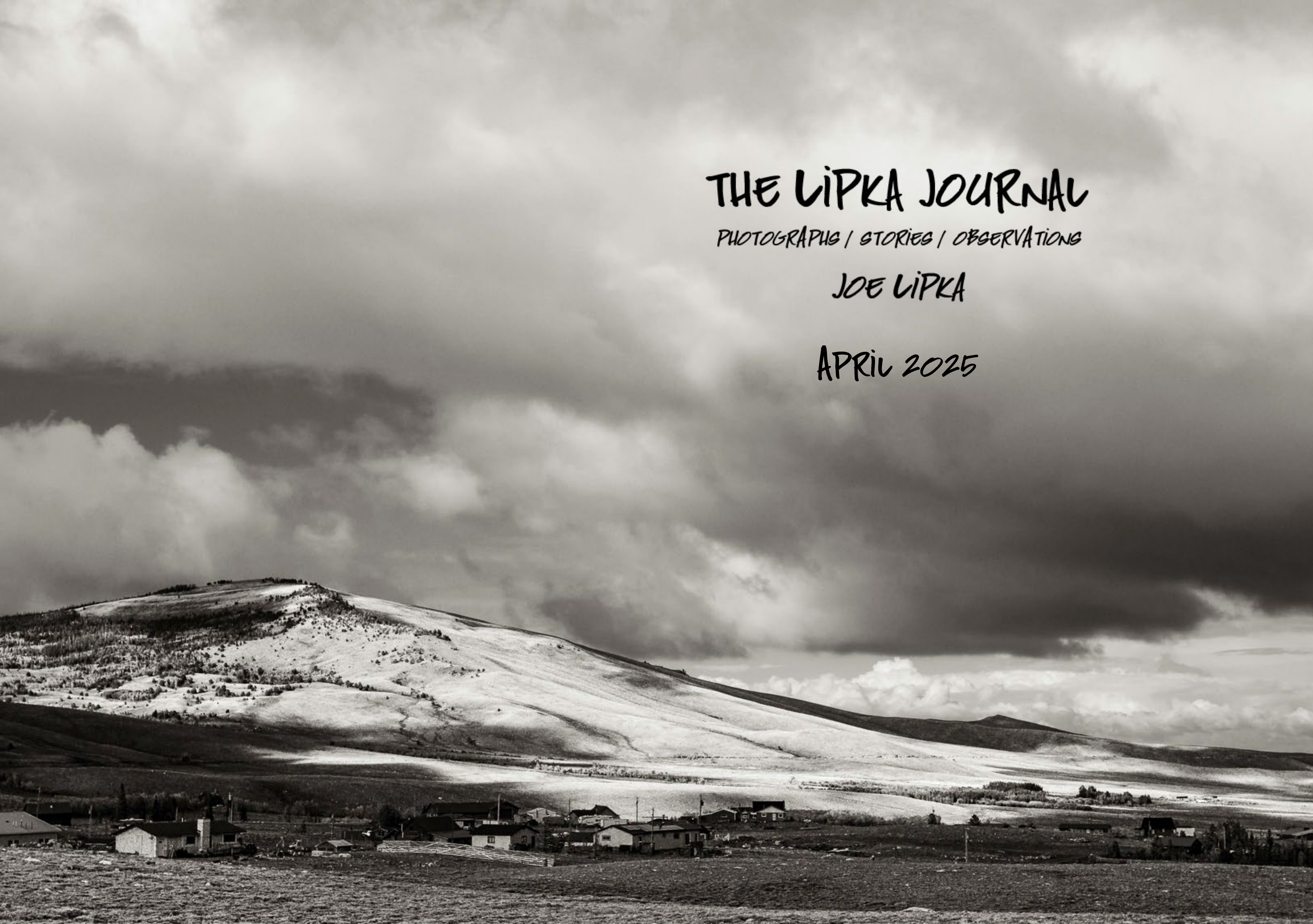


black and white photograph of Joe Lipka in a photo studio
surrounded by antique cameras on tripods

the three choices offered by photoshop

You know, I don't look like this.

(But my wife wishes I did.)

A black and white photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a small town with several houses is visible. The middle ground shows rolling hills and a large, snow-covered mountain peak. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, suggesting an approaching storm or late afternoon light. The overall mood is somber and atmospheric.

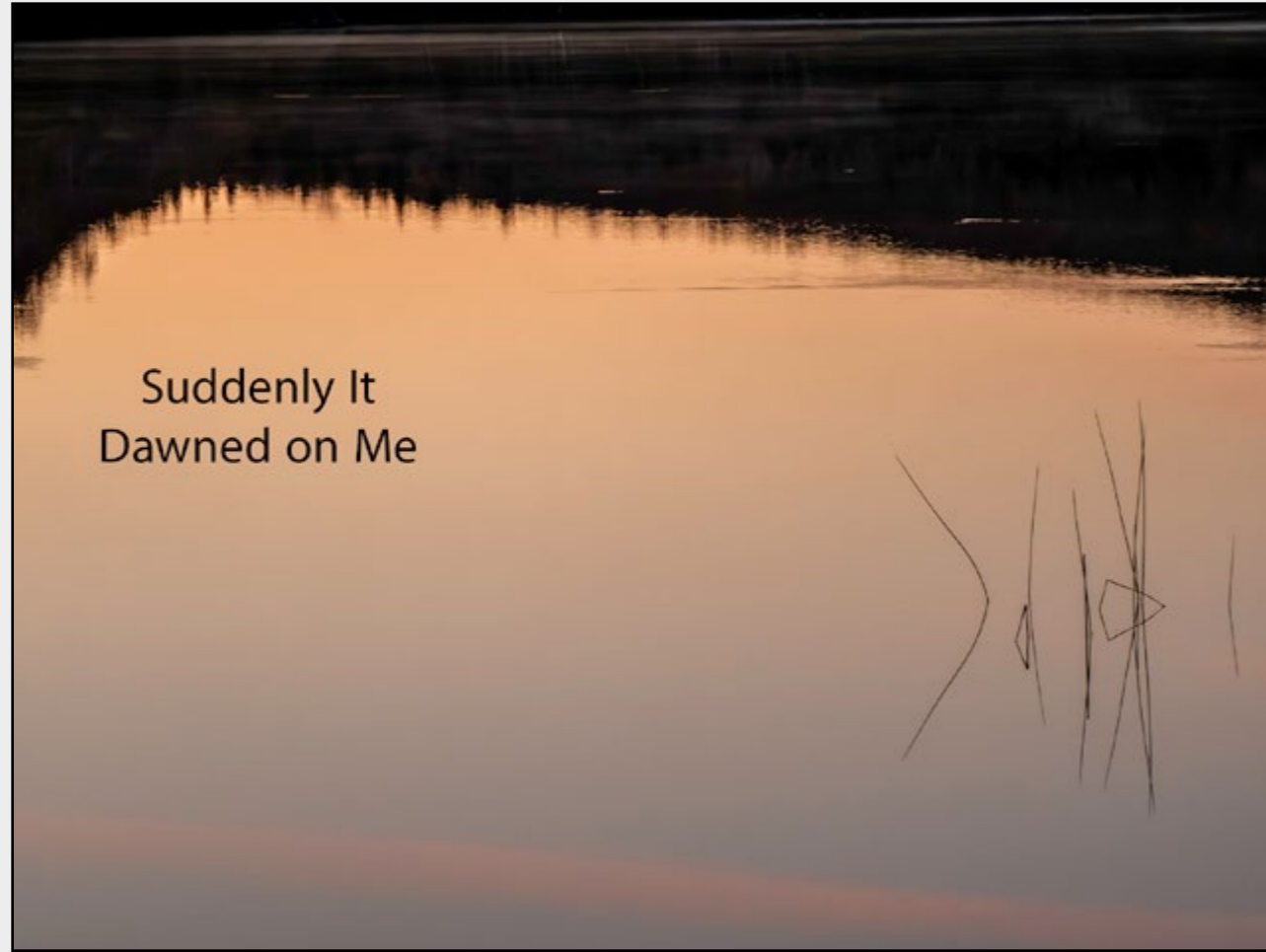
THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

APRIL 2025

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL APRIL 2025



Now that we have dispensed with the silliness of the traditional [Poisson d'Avril](#), let's get back to what we normally do.

Suddenly it Dawned on me, or maybe it was just a revelation that just photographing before dawn was still something that photographers do. We also photograph just before storms to capture another ephemeral meteorological condition, clouds. Then, we head back to A Place of Our Own before the approaching storms arrive.

Suddenly It
Dawned on Me



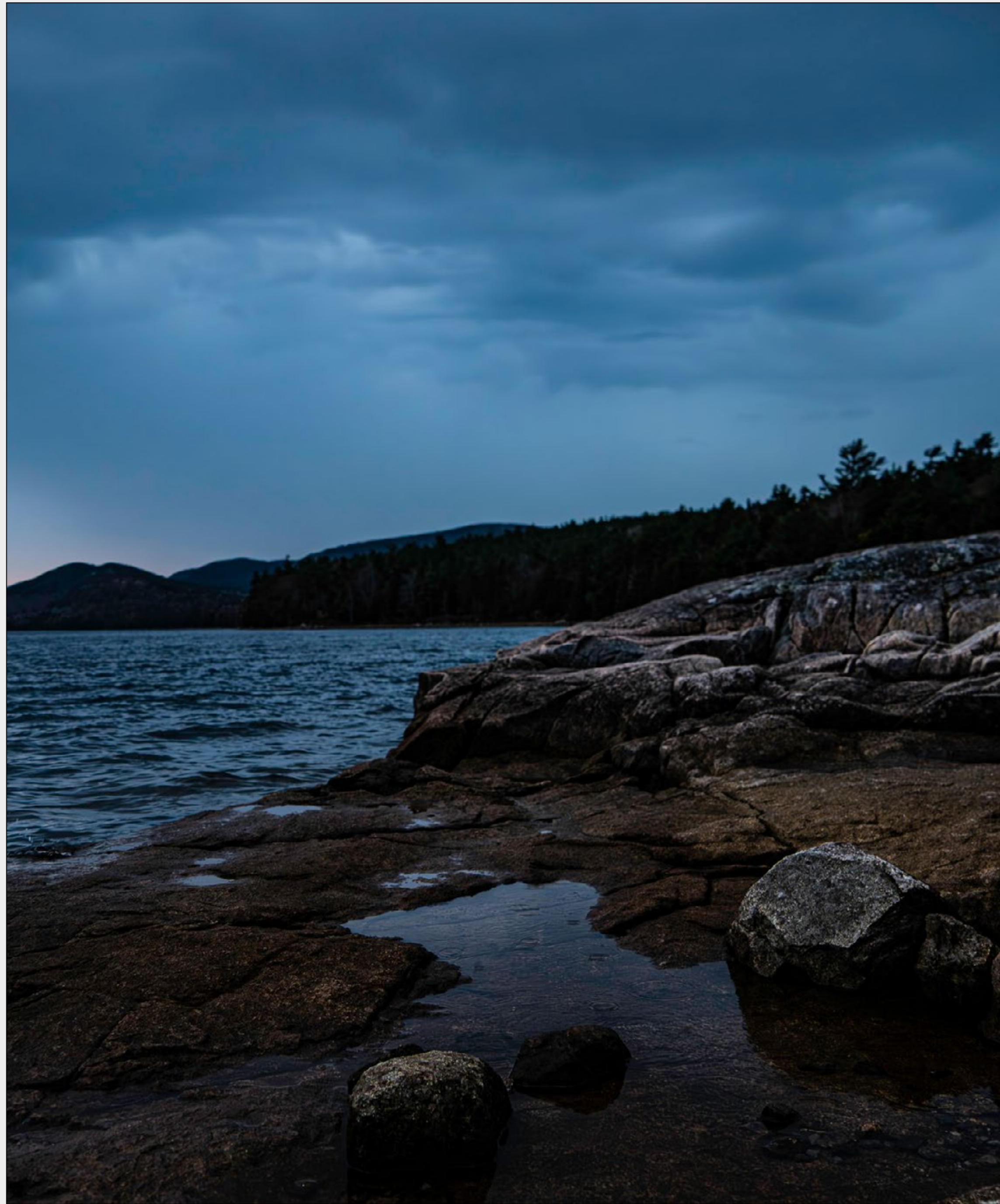
Suddenly It Dawned on Me

Well, not exactly. Dawn is not sudden, it is gradual. We go from not seeing, to being gradually aware to having details revealed. It is a slow, methodical process, so the suddenness of dawn doesn't really ring true. If we see something suddenly, it feels like it should be a revelation.

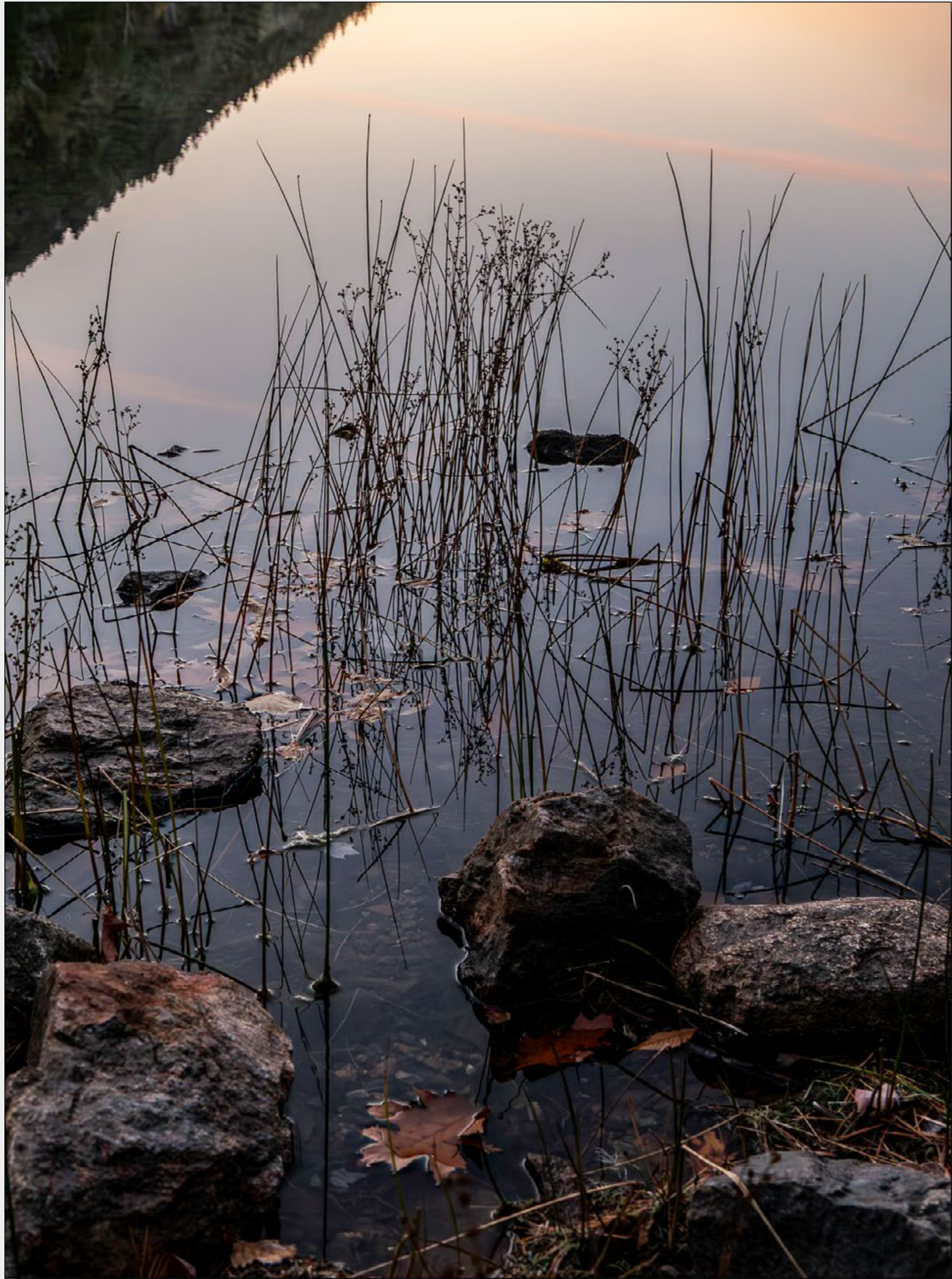
So it is when we photograph at dawn. We start in complete darkness and arrive at the appointed spot with caffeinated beverage in hand and with barely visible surroundings and gradually the details are filled in until all is revealed.





















A Mostly True Story

That kitchen table has been around since forever. The story was that one of Bert and Gertie's first purchases was that kitchen table with two matching chairs. It was a place for eating Gertie's great home cooking, planning crops for the farm, writing checks for feed and seed, and running the family farm. The entire life of the family took place atop that old piece of furniture.

By the time Fred was old enough to sit at the big table, Bert couldn't find a third chair to match the original two. That winter he made a chair for Fred. We still call it Fred's chair, even though Fred passed away thirty years ago.



Clouds



Clouds

Linus and Charlie Brown are looking at clouds. Charlie Brown asks Linus what he sees in the clouds. Linus replies with an articulate, intellectual response likening the clouds to Renaissance Sculptures. Charlie Brown is silent for a panel and responds, "I saw a horse and a doggie."

Clouds have different meanings for all of us. Farmers, golfers, hikers, people at picnics, meteorologists and especially photographers. Photographers look at clouds as an essential part of the landscape. Sometimes they fill in the top of the image, and sometime they are the entire story.























Aesthetic Considerations on The Adiabatic Cycle Of Water Vapor

Well, first thing, I'm not really settled on a title for what could be a very large publication. So far, my choices are techno-speak, or the totally uninspiring single word, "Clouds." This image suite is the beginning of a long journey that we shall take together.

A while back I took an on-line course on meteorology to add to my store of knowledge. The Professor talked about the importance of water, how clouds formed over the ocean, bringing rain, water flowing downhill and returning to the ocean where the clouds would form, and the process would begin again. In listening to these lectures, I was able to visualize this process through my photographs. I began to look through the Lipka Archives for images to tell the story.

As I explored the Archives, I found so many images they would not be able to fit in a single Journal. The solution is to create image suites on clouds, rain, rivers, waterfalls and seascapes for multiple issues of The Lipka Journal. Once finished, I would have a nice book project.

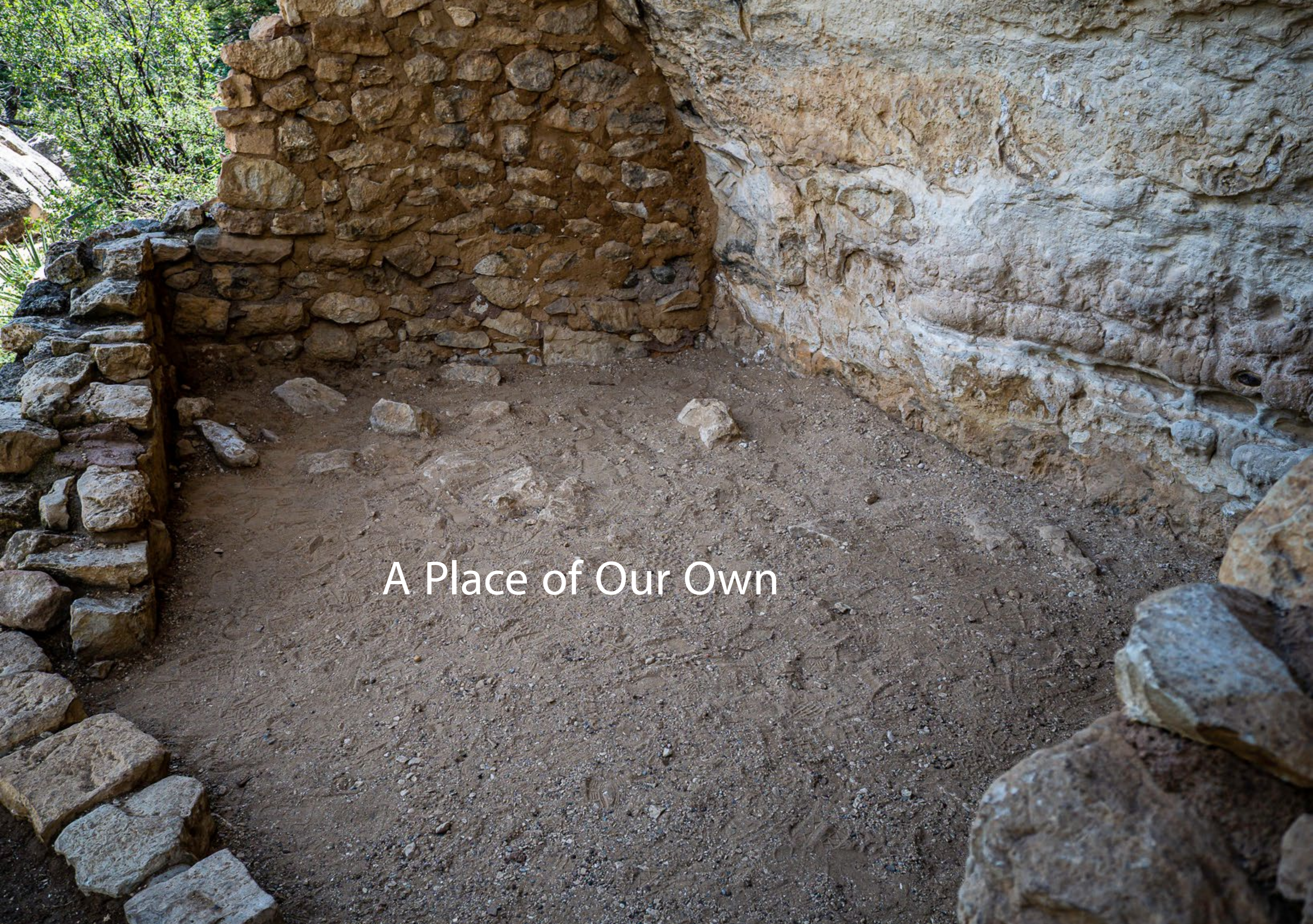
This month's image suite is the first installment of this project.





How did we ever get here?

Prologue: A photo and six words.



A Place of Our Own

A Place of Our Own

Man has always wanted a place for themselves and their families. A place that is solely for their use. We see that in Walnut Canyon in Arizona. Ancient people found rock overhangs on the side of a mountain and created their own community of individual dwellings by stacking and securing rocks to create small spaces for their families.

















Postcards from the Creative Journey



James -

I guess what it comes down to when you're out on the road as often as I am (with camera in hand, of course) you do your very level best to make great photographs.

This is a particularly difficult and most annoying when one is herded along as part of a tour package. We all see the same things and worse yet, stand in the same spot.

The key thing to remember is while you are going to the very same places every other photographer is going to, the challenge is to make photographs that look different and have greater meaning than a tourist snap.

Say hello to Eve for me, would you, please?

JOE

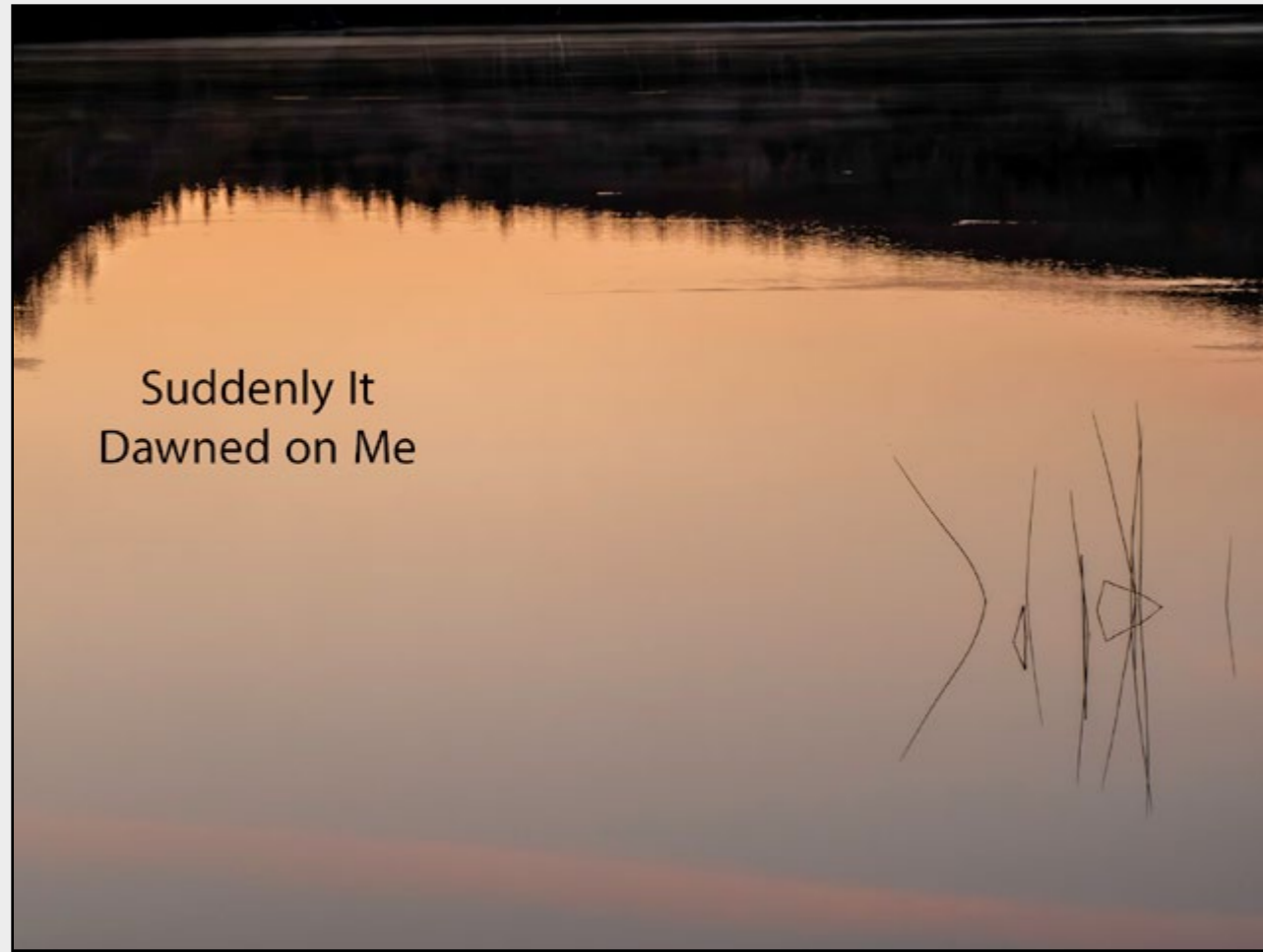


J. Bond

30 Wellington Square

Chelsea, London

A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



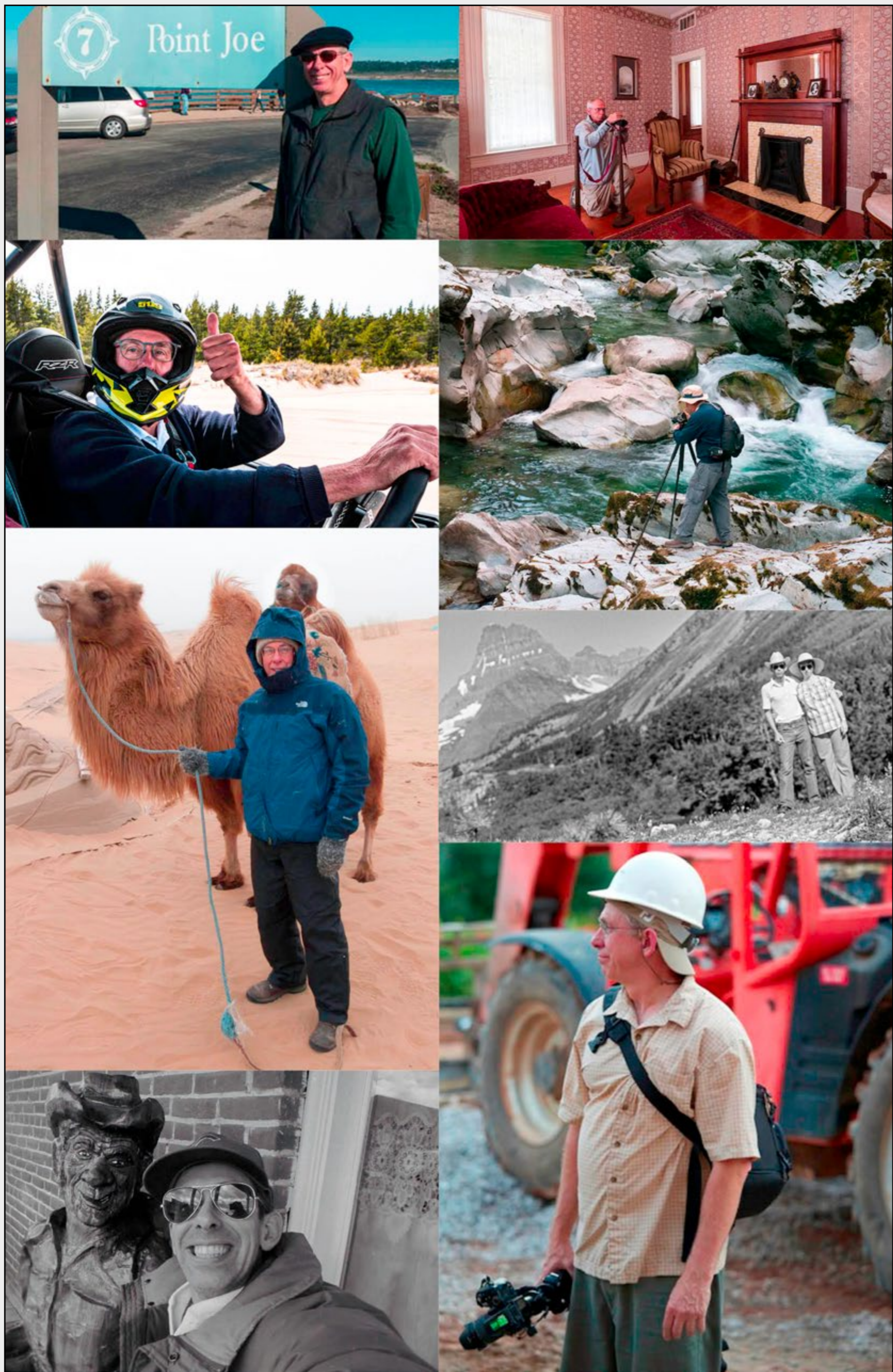
The only bad thing about photographing dawn is that you have to get up at zero dark thirty and head out with your photo gear, a cup of gas station coffee and the hope that the photo muses will smile on your effort. Eagle Pond at dawn was worth the effort because when you are alive to see the dawn, that's a pretty good thing.



The subtext of this project is that we can be inspired by or reminded about our creative endeavors from the most unlikely source. An on-line meteorology course pushed that little creative button buried in my psyche and moved me to start working on a new and what might turn out to be a huge project. Inspiration comes from the unlikeliest places. We do need to pay attention to when the muses come calling.



It was the last full day of photography in Northern Arizona, and we had put on a lot of miles going from one spectacular photographic location to another and capturing the vastness of the American Southwest. We settled for a side trip to Walnut Canyon to end the trip. It was a strenuous up and down hike to see the dwellings carved out of the side of the mountains. As I climbed the narrow, steep paths between dwellings, I felt that having a place of your own, no matter where it was or how tough it was to get there was something that humans have always wanted.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred and twenty juried exhibitions, and twenty five solo exhibitions. His images have been published in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop Magazines*. His recent book project, *Mostly True Stories*, was featured as a LensWork Bonus Edition Publication in February 2024.

His website www.joelipkaphoto.com has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, now publishes new content as part of *The Lipka Journal*.

The Daily Photograph, his current blog, is a new and interesting image posted every morning at 8:00 AM.

The Lipka Journal, April, 2025

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Blog: https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/

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